



April 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing in regards to the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program that is being planned with the Indiana Health Network (IHN) and Washington County Memorial Hospital's commitment to this project.

Washington County Memorial Hospital (WCMH) is located in the small town of Salem located in southern Indiana. The administrative team along with our directors at WCMH is determined to raise the standard of health care in our community and the surrounding area. While this area has a larger number of low income residents, this project would greatly help the people living here. We endeavor to improve access to broadband and connectivity that will enable and increase with telemedicine.

WCMH, through the implementation of IHN, would be able to initiate a better method for medical attention to these rural areas via telemedicine. We would be able to install broadband connections with a point to point T1/E3 line at 4 of our outlying clinics. Three of these clinics reside in small low income rural areas. By adding these data lines, we will be able to provide better, faster medical care responses. Our goal is to provide the connectivity necessary so the clinics are able to implement the new billing software, access to patient medical information including imaging procedures, and access all current and future software, education, and services installed at WCMH.

Our intent is to install PACS by then end of 2007. Improved internet access will provide physicians and personnel with access to educational programs, continuing education, and health information exchange.

The collaboration of WCMH with IHN will prove to be very beneficial throughout the state of Indiana. WCMH anticipates contributing to IHN via customary monthly fees. WCMH, as usual, is willing to lend the expertise of its staff to aid other in the successful implementation of network activities throughout the state.

Your consideration to assist WCMH regarding IHN is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
James J. Steggeman
James J. Steggeman
Chief Operating Officer
812-883-8523 direct
812-820-5571 cell

jsteggeman@wcmhospital.org



May 3, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch:

As chairman of the Indiana Telehealth Advisory Consortium (**TAC**), I would like to **express** my sincere support and enthusiasm for Indiana's proposal to participate in the FCC's **Rural Health Care Pilot Program**. This pilot program will provide an un-matched opportunity for rural health providers in Indiana to leverage health information technology that would **likely** have not been available *to* them.

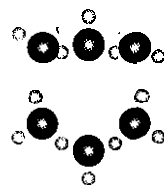
It **has** been encouraging to **see** multiple **health** providers, networks, universities and telecommunications providers **come** together to collaborate on this proposal. Indiana **has** a **wealth** of network management expertise in our own backyard and the FCC application process itself has enlightened many **to** the possibilities.

This application has **inspired** a non-partisan **response** for *the* ultimate benefit **of** Hoosier patients. The TAC **looks** forward to providing support (awareness, education, promotion) during the implementation of this comprehensive network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg A. Beck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Greg Beck, Chairman
Indiana TAC
5857 Rosslyn Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
866-397-6950
www.indianatac.org



Bloomington Hospital

Administration

601 W. Second Street

P.O. Box 1149

Bloomington, IN 47402

bloomingtonhospital.org

May 3, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The Bloomington Hospital is pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

The Bloomington Hospital is a Healthcare Organization that is committed to improving the health and well-being of residents of Indiana, Bloomington, and the nine surrounding counties in our service area. Given these factors I am confident that the **Indiana Health Network** will prove beneficial to Indiana's health care providers and ultimately patients through improved access to broadband that will enable increased utilization of telehealth applications.

The **Indiana Health Network** would provide an innovative approach to address the needs of Indiana's health care providers and ultimately the patients that they serve, as well as providing a means for all of Indiana's health care providers to share vital information. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little or no access to this resource, which would promote the economic development of these Indiana small towns and rural communities.

Realizing the potential impact of this project your sincere consideration regarding funding is appreciated.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at (812) 353-9555 or via e-mail at mmoore@bloomingtonhospital.org.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Moore, President/CEO
Bloomington Hospital

Advancing Medicine Enhancing Health

May 4, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The Bloomington E-Health Collaborative is pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

The Bloomington E-Health Collaborative is a community-based organization leading the health information exchange (HIE) effort on behalf of healthcare stakeholders in Monroe and surrounding counties in South Central Indiana. I ~~am~~ confident that the *Indiana Health Network* will prove beneficial to Indiana's health care providers and ultimately patients through improved access to broadband that will enable increased utilization of telehealth applications.

The *Indiana Health Network* would provide an innovative approach to address the needs of Indiana's health care providers and ultimately the patients that they serve, as well as providing a means for all of Indiana's health care providers to share vital information. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little *or* no access to this resource, which would promote the economic development of these Indiana small towns and rural communities.

Realizing the potential impact of this project your sincere consideration regarding funding is appreciated.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at (812) 353-4025 or via e-mail at trowland@bloomingtonhospital.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Rowland', with a stylized, cursive script.

Todd Rowland, M.D.
Executive Director
Bloomington E-Health Collaborative



Internet2
Office of the President & CEO
1000 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 913-4250
(734) 913-4255 (fax)
www.internet2.edu

May 2, 2007

Shawna Girgis
Executive Director
Indiana Rural Health Association
2900 West 16th Street
Bedford, IN 47421

Dear Ms. Girgis:

On behalf of Internet2, I am pleased to write in support of the proposal that the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) will be submitting in response to the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WE Docket No. 02-60.

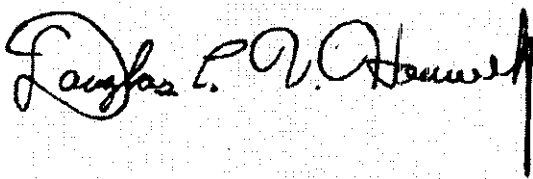
IRHA appears to be well positioned to provide enhanced access to underserved Indiana Missouri regions. With 35 Critical Access Hospitals and over 50 Rural Health Clinics, IRHA will be positioned to improve the health and well-being of rural patients through telehealth (applications, including telemedicine, health information exchange, distance education and training, public health surveillance, emergency preparedness, and trauma system development. IRHA will contribute to the improvement of healthcare statewide through remote diagnosis and treatment, and the use of Internet2's high bandwidth network providing access to unmatched content and support.

The proposal will utilize the new Internet2 Network and the regional networks to expand the telehealth infrastructure and provide high speed connections to all participants. By incorporating Internet2's middleware, security, and performance measurement tools, it also will provide secure exchange of medical records, permit remote access to expert diagnosis and treatment, increase cost-efficiencies by reducing costs associated with travel, and enhance training and research collaboration with secure multi-site videoconferencing. The use of Internet2's network not only will provide an effective, secure, and system for statewide and national telehealth and telemedicine, but also will ensure that training and other integrated resources will be incorporated to optimize the network's utility. In doing so, the regional network that will be created will facilitate the exchange of reliable data, and digital image, voice, and video transmissions with quality to enhance real-time clinical consultation.

Internet2 is the foremost **U.S.** advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. The Internet2 Network and its member community innovations in middleware, security, educational networking, and partnerships with premier federal agencies such as NIH are uniquely positioned to deliver high performance, flexible, low-cost connectivity in support of healthcare needs on a sustained basis on the local, regional, state, and national levels. In the process, these partnerships are likely to expand technological capabilities, increase the range of geographical access to sophisticated treatment modalities, and redefine the parameters of disease diagnosis, treatment, and management.

We are pleased to offer our support for this initiative, which will enhance the provision of regional telehealth and telemedicine services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas E. Van Houweling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO, Internet2

EVAN BAYH

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April 25, 2007

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

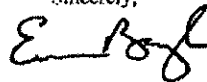
I would like to express my support for the Indiana Rural Health Association's (IRHA) application for the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

In order to improve the health and well-being of Indiana's rural residents, IRHA has partnered with multiple organizations from across our state to develop the proposed *Indiana Health Network*. This network will support the state-wide installation of broadband connection to health care providers for the purposes of increasing the utilization of telehealth applications. As a result, rural patients will be able to receive medical care in their own communities, which will improve access to quality health care and enhance continuity of care. In addition to improving access for patients, this new network will increase the availability of information and services that are key to reducing the sense of isolation for rural health care providers.

A dedicated broadband health network is critical to our efforts to expand our capabilities in telemedicine, health information exchange, distance education and training, public health surveillance, emergency preparedness, and trauma system development. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little or no access to this resource. Consequently, the development of the *Indiana Health Network* will also be a vital component to advancing the economic development of Indiana's small towns and rural communities.

I appreciate your sincere consideration of IRHA's application. If you should have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Senator Evan Bayh



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

April 27, 2007

Dear Senator Ford:

The State of Indiana is committed to working with the Indiana Rural Health Association and its partners to apply for grant funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) via the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. If awarded, funding for this program would support the development of an Indiana Health Network that would fund the installation of broadband connection to health care providers across the state for the purposes of increasing the utilization of telehealth applications.

A number of key stakeholders representing the health care, telehealth, and telecommunications communities have been working closely with representatives of state government to develop a grant application. The state will commit to working with the other partners in the grant application to secure the 15 percent local match required by the FCC. Among the possible sources of funds that can be pursued are:

- Existing state general fund revenue
- Other federal grant funding received by state agencies including but not limited to the Indiana State Department of Health, Family and Social Services Administration, and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Private telecommunications firms that compete for and win contracts under this pilot program
- Health care providers that receive broadband services as a result of the grant
- Foundations or philanthropic organizations
- Local governments

To ensure this initiative is sustainable and that all partners are invested in and dedicated to its success, the state believes it is important that the match requirement be shared appropriately among the grant's beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Pickett".

Neil Pickett
Senior Policy Director



May 3, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I'm writing to you to express West Central Community Hospital's commitment to the Indiana Health Network's project being planned in response to the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

West Central Community Hospital is a twenty-five (25) bed Critical Access Hospital in rural Vermillion County Indiana, that serves the healthcare needs of residents of both Parke and Vermillion Counties in Indiana. Our mission to provide and improve access to healthcare services, especially for our aging population will be strengthened through collaboration with other healthcare providers throughout the State of Indiana. Improved access to broadband and connectivity will be critical to achieve telehealth applications. The Indiana Health Network project will provide the venue to achieve this for Indiana's rural health care providers and ultimately for our rural patients.

West Central Community Hospital services many of our elderly population who cannot or will not drive in the larger cities for healthcare. We also have no public transportation available for our residents to keep specialty physician appointments. These issues, coupled with shortages of some specialties or sub-specialties have created problems with timely access to care. Implementation of the Indiana Health Network would assist West Central Community Hospital to access more telehealth consults timely for patients experiencing acute MI, CVA's and would allow more rapid transmission of radiology images for prompt treatment and response.

Given the benefits that broadband and connectivity would make available to our rural health providers, and ultimately our rural patients in improving timely access and improving patient outcomes for care, West Central Community Hospital is committed to participation in the network. We would commit to connecting to the network, commit to utilizing the network to enhance our PACS capabilities, commit to video conferences for physician and staff training opportunities as well as telehealth consultation as available. We are also willing to participate in network planning activities or other activities for the project as appropriate.

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A PARTNER IN THE UNION HOSPITAL HEALTH GROUP

LETTER, MARLENE H. DORTCH, SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
(Cont., Page 2)

The patients and physicians of our local rural community hospital would benefit greatly. West Central Community Hospital anticipates reasonable monthly fees would be assessed for high speed broadband access and use of the health care network for telehealth applications and their development and implementation. We would also be willing to provide our staff's expertise to the project for successful implementation of network activities.

Your sincere consideration regarding funding for the Indiana Health Network is greatly appreciated, especially given the potential impact for health care providers and residents of rural Indiana to improve access and care.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 765-832-1203 or via e-mail at WCHTLH@UHHG.ORG.

Sincerely,



Terri Hill
Administrator

TH/vn